

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Office Action of August 22, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 16-19, 21-22 and 26 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification, claims, and drawings as filed, and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 15, 20, and 23-24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 4, 12-14, 16-19, 21-22, and 25-26 are thus pending following entry of this amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 12-14, 16-19, 21-22, and 25-26 are allowable over Ambrosini

In the Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,609,121 Ambrosini. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 14 are independent. It is respectfully submitted that Ambrosini does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 14 as amended herein.

Claim 1

Ambrosini discloses a system and method for validating data relating to a directory using the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) that utilizes an LDAP “plug-in” architecture. Ambrosini at col. 5, lines 35-45.

However, the method for validating data disclosed in Ambrosini is very different from the method recited in claim 1 as amended herein. As disclosed in Ambrosini, the plug-in intercepts LDAP requests to a directory and *converts the LDAP compatible search arguments to search arguments compatible with the DA [directory assistance] database . . .*” Ambrosini at col. 7, lines 45-63 and col. 10, lines 40-60. Thus, the method disclosed in Ambrosini *converts* an entry whose data does not conform to acceptable data into an acceptable entry. Thus, the method disclosed in Ambrosini is in stark contrast to a method including

receiving a call to a directory, the call including one of a
request to add data to the directory, a request to modify data in the

directory, or a request to delete data from the directory, the call further including at least one attribute;

evaluating the attribute according to a first rule governing content of data that may be included in the directory and a second rule governing structure of data that may be included in the directory;

determining if the attribute complies with one of the first rule and the second rule;

forwarding the call to the directory when the call attribute complies with one of the first rule and the second rule; and

forwarding an error message to a source of the call when the call attribute does not comply with one of the first rule and the second rule

as recited in claim 1 as amended herein. For example, among other recitations, there is no disclosure in Ambrosini of forwarding an error message to a source of the call when the attribute does not comply with the second rule governing the structure of data.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is allowable over Ambrosini, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-13 were dependent on claim 1; claims 2, 3, and 5-11 are cancelled herein, leaving only claims 4 and 12-13 remaining that depend from claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims 4 and 12-13 are allowable over Ambrosini, by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim and further in view of the additional inventive steps recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 12-13 and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 14

Ambrosini further does not disclose or suggest a rule attribute enforcer comprising
a rule validator and a transaction monitor;

the transaction monitor being capable of intercepting a call to a directory, diverting the intercepted call to the rule validator if the call includes one of a request to add data to the directory, a

request to modify data in the directory, and a request to delete data from the directory, and forwarding the intercepted call to the directory if the call does not include a request to add data to the directory, a request to modify data in the directory, or a request to delete data from the directory; and

the rule validator being capable of determining if an attribute of the call complies with one of a first rule governing content of data that may be included in the directory and a second rule governing structure of data that may be included in the directory, forwarding the call when the attribute complies with one of the first rule and the second rule, and returning an error message to a source of the call when the attribute does not comply with one of the first rule and the second rule

as recited in claim 14 as amended herein. For substantially the same reasons set forth above regarding the patentability of claim 1, claim 14 also patentably distinguishes over Ambrosini. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable over Ambrosini, and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 14 is requested.

Claims 15-26 depended directly or indirectly from claim 14. Claims 15, 20, 23, and 24 have been cancelled herein, leaving only claims 16-19, 21-22, and 25-26 remaining that depend from claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 16-19, 21-22, and 25-26 are allowable over Ambrosini, by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim, and further in view of the additional inventive steps recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-19, 21-22, and 25-26 and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 624-7326.

Respectfully submitted,
POWELL GOLDSTEIN, LLP

Date: January 22, 2007

By: /Joslyn Barritt/
Joslyn Barritt, Registration No. 56,296
901 New York Avenue NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4413
Tel: (202) 347-0066
Fax: (202) 624-7222

JB/jb